

From: jim.quinn.b@bayer.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Being a casual observer of the Microsoft antitrust case over the past years, I have found at least one, what I consider to be, extremely serious flaw in the proposed settlement. The settlement involves giving away Microsoft products to schools, one of the very few markets Microsoft still has viable competition in (by Apple which they own a part of). Giving their product away in this manner will only serve to increase their monopoly in the operating systems market, by marrying their product to the national education system, by creating more, wider, exposure (and hence proficiency, and dependence) to the Microsoft products. Giving away one's product well below cost is an illegal tactic used by businesses to gain market dominance, and drive competitors out of business. Microsoft has used this tactic in the past to dominate the operating system and office suite market by providing extremely weak copy protection on their products ensuring that they could be easily copied and distributed by casual computer users to their friends. I do not find this a suitable punishment for a corporation convicted of violating antitrust laws. In my opinion, having Microsoft purchase, and donate a competing product to the schools, or better yet, providing support for open source software in the public schools would do infinitely more to remedy the monopoly situation.

In addition, due to recent laws making it illegal to reverse engineer a product like Microsoft's Windows operating system (like was done with the IBM PC leading to the "IBM Compatible"), I believe Microsoft should be forced to publish and document ALL of their API's to facilitate the production of a compatible, competing product that can run the same software applications on the same hardware.

Sincerely,
Jim Quinn

Jim Quinn (Embedded image moved to file:
Getronics pic09931.gif)
Desktop Support on site at
Bayer Pharmaceuticals
203.812.3097 PHONE
203.812.3668 FAX
jim.quinn.b@bayer.com EMAIL